Movies and serials

†2798. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that once again through the movies and serials witchcraft and occultism are being promoted;

(b) if so, the effective steps Government are going to take to curb the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):(a) to (c) Prasar Bharat has informed that all the progammes including movies and serials on Doordarshan are governed by a Boardcast Code. Doordarshan previews all serials/movies to ensure that nothing promoting witchcraft or occultism, are telecast.

Programmes of all TV Channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable TV Network Regulation Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter-alia*, prohibits carriage of programmes which encourage superstition or blind belief as well as those contravening the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the violations of the Programme Code either *suo-moto* or on receipt of a specific complaint. Authorised Officers are also empowered under the Act to take action for violation of the Programme Code.

The movies meant for public exhibition are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and guidelines issued thereunder.

Telecasting of serials in TV/Radio

†2799. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that various serials are being telecast in TV/Radio Channels which are helping in making

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.